

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187006

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, UR, XF

SUBJECT: IMPLICATIONS OF AFGHANISTAN COUP

REF: USNATO 6321

FOLLOWING ARE TALKING POINTS ON AFGHANISTAN FOR USE
AT POLADS POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING JULY 25.

-- MOST SIGNIFICANT RECENT POLITICAL EVENT HAS BEEN
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PURGE OF "PARCHAM" FACTION OF RULING PARTY. BABRAK KAMEL
AND A NUMBER OF HIS CLOSE PARTY ASSOCIATES HAVE BEEN
EXILED ABROAD AS AMBASSADORS. IN LAST WEEK PURGE WAS
EXTENDED TO PROVINCIAL LEVEL WHEN THIRTEEN OF COUNTRY'S
27 PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS WERE REPLACED.

-- ALTHOUGH PRIME MINISTER TARAKI SEEMS TO HAVE CON-

SOLIDATED HIS CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT MACHINERY HE STILL
FACES MANY SERIOUS PROBLEMS. THE ECONOMY IS STAGNATING
AS MANY TRADERS AND ENTREPRENEURS APPEAR TO BE BIDDING
THEIR TIME. TARAKI ALSO FACES POSSIBLE OPPOSITION FROM
CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS IN THE MILITARY, AND AMONG THE
TRIBES. WE CONTINUE TO HEAR ABOUT FIGHTING IN PAKTIA
PROVINCE BETWEEN TRIBESMEN AND AFGHAN ARMY AND AIR FORCE
UNITS.

-- PAKISTAN AND IRAN HAVE SHOWN CONSIDERABLE CONCERN
BECAUSE OF THE APPARENT INCREASE OF SOVIET INFLUENCE
IN AFGHANISTAN. PAKISTAN ALSO IS APPREHENSIVE OVER
POSSIBLE AFGHAN INTENTIONS TO RESURRECT THE
PUSHTUNISTAN AND BALUCHISTAN IRREDENTIST ISSUES. IRAN
AND PAKISTAN BOTH CONSIDER AFGHANISTAN BOUND BY PREVIOUS
AGREEMENTS TO RESPECT THE EXISTING BORDERS.

-- WHILE PAKISTAN AND IRAN ARE WATCHING DEVELOPMENTS IN
KABUL VERY CLOSELY FOR A POTENTIAL THREAT TO THEIR
SECURITY, THEY ARE PURSUING NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE
NEW GOVERNMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE CONCEPT OF PROVIDING
ALTERNATIVES TO IT TO TOTAL DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIET
UNION. PAKISTAN HAS, IN FACT, MADE GESTURES OF GOOD WILL
TO AFGHANISTAN LIKE EXPEDITING THE MOVEMENT OF GOODS
THROUGH ITS TERRITORY. INDIA HAS SHOWN ITS AWARENESS OF
THE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS FOR REGIONAL SECURITY OF INCREASED
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SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFGHANISTAN AND IT HAS MANIFESTED
SUPPORT FOR ITS CONTINUED INDEPENDENCE.

-- THE SOVIET, FOR THEIR PART, HAVE CLEARLY CAPITALIZED
ON SITUATION AND HAVE SIGNED OVER 30 NEW ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS WITH AFGHANS AND SENT IN
ADDITIONAL CIVILIAN AND MILITARY ADVISORS.

-- WE CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED BY SITUATION IN AFGHAN-
ISTAN AND DO NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INCREASE
OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN REGION. HOWEVER WE BELIEVE BEST
COURSE FOR U.S. AND NATO ALLIES IS TO TRY AND WORK WITH
NEW GOVERNMENT. WE HOPE TO CONTINUE OUR AID, PEACE CORPS,
MILITARY TRAINING, AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. WE
BELIEVE WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE AFGHAN INDEPENDENCE AND
NATIONALISM AND GIVE THEM ALTERNATIVES TO COMPLETE
DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIET UNION.

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